



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8  
999 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET - SUITE 300  
DENVER, CO 80202-2466  
Phone 800-227-8917  
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Ref: 8ENF-UFO

JUL 13 2005

**CERTIFIED MAIL 7003-2260-0002-0331-7165**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Clark P. Storms  
Vice-President, Secretary, and Registered Agent  
Omimex Resources, Inc.  
5608 Malvey Avenue, Suite 400  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107-5163

Re: UNDERGROUND INJECTION  
CONTROL PROGRAM (UIC)  
Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint  
with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing

Dear Mr. Storms:

The enclosed document is a Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing ("complaint") for violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act ("SDWA"). Please carefully read the complaint soon, since it describes Omimex Resources Inc.'s ("Omimex's") rights and responsibilities in this matter as well as EPA's authority, the factual basis of the violations, and the background for the proposed penalties. Also enclosed is a copy of the Rules of Practice that govern these proceedings, the required Public Notice associated with this complaint and, in case Omimex meets the criteria, an information sheet about the Small Business Regulatory Fairness Act.

**Omimex is required to take action within 30 calendar days of your receipt of this complaint** to avoid the possibility of having a default judgment entered against Omimex that could impose the penalty amount proposed in the complaint.

Whether or not Omimex requests a hearing, we encourage an informal conference with EPA concerning the alleged violations in an effort to negotiate a settlement. Omimex may wish to appear at an informal conference and/or be represented by legal counsel. To arrange for such a conference, Omimex should contact Jim Eppers, Enforcement Attorney, Legal Enforcement Program, at the number provided below. Request for such a conference does not extend the 30 calendar day period during which a request for hearing must be submitted.

Public Notice of EPA's complaint and the opportunity to provide written comments on the complaint is being provided pursuant to section 1423 (c)(3)(B) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(3)(B). Should a hearing be held, any person who comments on the complaint has a right to participate in the hearing.



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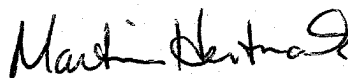
If Omimex has technical questions relating to this matter, the person most knowledgeable on my staff is Nathan Wiser, UIC Enforcement Team, Technical Enforcement Program, at 1-800-227-8917 ext. 6211 or (303) 312-6211. For all legal questions, the person most knowledgeable on my staff is Jim Eppers at 1-800-227-8917 ext. 6893 or (303) 312-6893. Mr. Wiser and Mr. Eppers can also be reached at the following addresses:

Nathan Wiser (Mail Code 8ENF-UFO)  
U.S. EPA Region 8  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466, or

Jim Eppers (Mail Code 8ENF-L)  
Enforcement Attorney  
U.S. EPA Region 8  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466.

We urge Omimex's prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



for Carol Rushin  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance  
and Environmental Justice

Enclosures:

Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint  
with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing  
40 C.F.R. Part 22  
Public Notice  
U.S. EPA Small Business Resources Fact Sheet

cc: Gerald Wagner, Director of Environmental Program (with all enclosures)  
Blackfeet Tribe  
P.O. Box 2029  
Browning, Montana 59417

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**UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION 8**

2005 JUL 13 PM 1:06

Docket No. SDWA-08-2005-0040

FILED  
EPA REGION VIII  
HEARING CLERK

In the Matter of: )

Omimex Resources Inc. )  
a Texas corporation, )  
Respondent. )

**PROPOSED ORDER AND PENALTY  
COMPLAINT WITH NOTICE OF  
OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This civil administrative enforcement action is authorized by Congress in section 1423(c) of the Public Health Service Act, also known as the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA or the Act). 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations authorized by the statute are set out in part 144 of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R.), and violations of the statute, permits or EPA regulations constitute violations of the Act. The rules for this proceeding are the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits ("Rules of Practice")," 40 C.F.R. part 22, a copy of which is enclosed.
2. The undersigned EPA official has been properly delegated the authority to issue this Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (complaint).
3. EPA alleges that Omimex Resources Inc. (Respondent) has violated the Act and proposes the assessment of a civil penalty and compliance measures, as more fully explained below.

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING**

4. Respondent has the right to a public hearing before an administrative law judge to disagree with any factual allegation made by EPA in the complaint or the appropriateness of the proposed penalty, or to present the grounds for any legal defense it may have.

- 1  
2 5. To disagree with the complaint and assert your right to a hearing, Respondent must file a  
3 written answer (and one copy) with the Region 8 Hearing Clerk at the following address:

4  
5 Region 8 Hearing Clerk  
6 999 18<sup>th</sup> Street; Suite 300 (8RC)  
7 Denver, Colorado 80202  
8

9 within 30 calendar days of receiving this complaint. The answer must clearly admit, deny  
10 or explain the factual allegations of the complaint, the grounds for any defense, the facts  
11 you may dispute, and your specific request for a public hearing. Please see section 22.15  
12 of the Rules of Practice for a complete description of what must be in the answer.

13 **FAILURE TO FILE AN ANSWER AND REQUEST FOR HEARING WITHIN 30**  
14 **CALENDAR DAYS MAY WAIVE RESPONDENT'S RIGHT TO DISAGREE**  
15 **WITH THE ALLEGATIONS OR PROPOSED PENALTY, AND RESULT IN A**  
16 **DEFAULT JUDGMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PENALTY PROPOSED**  
17 **IN THE COMPLAINT, OR UP TO THE MAXIMUM AUTHORIZED BY THE**  
18 **ACT.**

#### 19 20 QUICK RESOLUTION

- 21  
22 6. Respondent may resolve this proceeding at any time by permanently plugging and  
23 abandoning its Class II enhanced oil recovery well referenced in Paragraph 9 and paying  
24 the penalty amount proposed in the complaint. Such action to plug the well and make  
25 payment need not contain any response to, or admission of, the allegations in the  
26 complaint. Such action to plug the well and make payment constitutes a waiver of  
27 Respondent's right to contest the allegations and to appeal the final order. See section  
28 22.18 of the Rules of Practice for a full explanation of the quick resolution process.  
29

#### 30 SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

- 31  
32 7. EPA encourages discussing whether cases can be settled through informal settlement  
33 conferences. If you want to pursue the possibility of settling this matter, or have any  
34 other questions, contact Jim Eppers, Senior Enforcement Attorney, at [1-800-227-8917 ;  
35 extension 6893 or 303-312-6893] or at the address identified in paragraph 29 herein.  
36 **Please note that calling Mr. Eppers or requesting a settlement conference does NOT**  
37 **delay the running of the 30 day period for filing an answer and requesting a**  
38 **hearing.**  
39

#### 40 GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

41  
42 The following general allegations apply to all times relevant to this action, and to each  
43 count of this complaint:

- 1  
2 8. Pursuant to section 1422 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-1, and 40 C.F.R. part 147 subpart  
3 BB, section 147.1351, EPA administers the Underground Injection Control (UIC)  
4 program for Class II wells in Indian Country within the State of Montana. The effective  
5 date of the program is June 25, 1984. The program requirements are located at  
6 40 C.F.R. parts 124, 144, 146, 147, and 148.
- 7  
8 9. Respondent's Class II enhanced oil recovery well, the "Tribal 194-14," bearing EPA  
9 identification number MT20000-01150, located in Glacier County, Montana, 1650 feet  
10 from the south line, 990 feet from the west line, in Section 15 of Township 37 North,  
11 Range 7 West, was in existence as an enhanced oil recovery well when the EPA UIC  
12 program became effective. Respondent is currently authorized by rule (40 C.F.R.  
13 §144.28) to operate the well described above. Respondent is therefore subject to  
14 applicable requirements of 40 C.F.R. parts 124, 144 and 146. The well is owned and/or  
15 operated by Respondent and is located within the exterior boundary of the Blackfeet  
16 Indian Reservation.
- 17  
18 10. The Tribal 194-14 Class II injection well has not been used for injection since at least  
19 January 1996. After two years' cessation of injection activities, the regulations at 40  
20 C.F.R. §144.28(c)(2)(iv) require the injection well owner or operator to plug the well  
21 unless the owner or operator demonstrates that the well will not endanger underground  
22 sources of drinking water during the temporary abandonment period. A successful  
23 mechanical integrity demonstration is acceptable as a non-endangerment demonstration.  
24 The well's mechanical integrity was successfully demonstrated on August 25, 1998, and  
25 November 20, 2000.
- 26  
27 11. EPA granted 2-year extensions of the deadline to plug and abandon the well in letters  
28 dated September 11, 1998, and November 30, 2000, sent to the then owner/operator of  
29 this well, North American Resources Company.
- 30  
31 12. As of November 30, 2002, the well had not been plugged, and no demonstration of non-  
32 endangerment had been made, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 144.28(c)(2)(iv).
- 33  
34 13. On February 25, 2004, EPA notified the then owner/operator of the well, EnCana Oil and  
35 Gas (USA) Inc. (EnCana) that this well was in violation of the requirement to plug and  
36 abandon the well after ceasing injection for at least two years, the deadline for which had  
37 previously been extended twice as referenced in Paragraph 11.
- 38  
39 14. On February 25, 2004, Respondent executed a standby trust agreement assuming  
40 plugging and abandonment liability for the well. This executed document was received  
41 by EPA on March 2, 2004, and was approved by EPA on March 4, 2004. This  
42 established February 25, 2004, as the date EPA considers this well's ownership

transferred from EnCana to Respondent. The violation of 40 C.F.R. §144.28(c)(2)(iv) referred to in Paragraph 12 continued during the transfer of ownership.

15. On February 25, 2004, Respondent conducted a mechanical integrity test (MIT) on the subject well, witnessed by EPA representative Tillman McAdams. The MIT revealed that the well had lost mechanical integrity, since Respondent was unable to pressurize the annulus surrounding the injection tubing. A loss of mechanical integrity is a violation of the regulations at 40 C.F.R. §144.28(f)(2), and furthermore, demonstrates there may have been endangerment during the period of temporary abandonment in violation of 40 C.F.R. §144.28(c)(2)(iv).
16. On March 1, 2004, EPA notified Respondent of this violation and specified a 30-day timeframe to correct it.
17. On April 2, 2004, Respondent responded to EPA with a notice of its intention to end the non-compliance by plugging the well and requested approval to plug and abandon the well.
18. On April 9, 2004, EPA approved, by certified mail no. 7003-2260-0001-7777-8757 Respondent's plan to plug and abandon the well, which was received by Respondent on April 14, 2004.
19. To date, EPA has not been notified by Respondent, verbally or in writing, that the well has been plugged.
20. The Respondent, Omimex Resources Inc., as of February 25, 2004, and to the present, is a corporation organized in the State of Texas and is authorized to do business in the State of Montana.
21. Respondent is a "person" within the meaning of Section 1401(12) of the Act. 42 U.S.C. § 300f(12).
22. The well penetrates underground sources of drinking water (USDWs), including but not limited to, the Two Medicine Sandstone and the Eagle Sandstone formations.
23. A summary list of the violations alleged is included as Attachment A to this complaint.

#### COUNT 1

24. Respondent is in violation of 40 C.F.R. §144.28(f)(2) for failing to maintain mechanical integrity at this well, since it failed an MIT on February 25, 2004. The duration of the Respondent's violations is from February 25, 2004, to the present.

## COUNT 2

25. Respondent is in violation of 40 C.F.R. §144.28(c)(2)(iv) for failure to plug and abandon this well. The regulation requires the Respondent to plug and abandon this well after ceasing injection activities for more than 2 years, unless the Respondent can demonstrate that the well will not endanger USDWs during the temporary abandonment period. The well has not been used for injection since January 1996. Failure to pass an MIT indicates the Respondent's inability to demonstrate non-endangerment to USDWs. The duration of Respondent's violations for failure to plug and abandon this well is from February 25, 2004, to the present.

### PROPOSED ORDER WITH ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL PENALTY

26. For violations of the Act that occurred prior to March 16, 2004, the Act, as amended, authorizes the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$27,500.00 per day. For violations of the Act that occurred on or after March 16, 2004, the Act, as amended, authorizes the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$32,500.00 per day, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(b). The Act requires EPA to take into account the following factors in assessing a civil penalty: the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation; any economic benefit or savings gained resulting from the violation; Respondent's history of such violations; Respondent's culpability for the violation; Respondent's good-faith efforts to comply with applicable requirements; the economic impact of the penalty on the Respondent; and other factors that justice may require. 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(4)(B).
27. Respondent shall comply with the requirements of 40 C.F.R. §144.28(c)(2)(iv), by plugging and abandoning the well.
28. In light of the statutory factors and the specific facts of this case, EPA proposes that a penalty of \$41,025.00 (forty-one thousand, twenty-five dollars) be assessed against Respondent for the violations alleged above, as explained below:

#### Nature, Circumstances, Extent, and Gravity of Violations

Respondent has the ability and means to comply by plugging and abandoning the well in a manner to prevent movement of fluids to a USDW that may endanger the health of persons. Respondent represented its intention to plug the well in its April 2, 2004, letter. Respondent has access to this well and its other wells in the oil field. A well lacking mechanical integrity can provide a pathway for contaminants in underlying formations to reach one or more USDWs, which can lead to one or more maximum contaminant levels being exceeded or otherwise endanger human health.

1       Prior Compliance History

2  
3       This Order is the first enforcement actions EPA Region 8 has issued to Respondent  
4       requiring compliance with the applicable UIC regulations.

5  
6       Good-Faith Efforts to Comply

7  
8       As far as EPA can tell, Respondent had not made an effort to plug and abandon this well  
9       and more than 15 months have passed since Respondent first notified EPA it planned to  
10      plug it. Respondent has not provided any communication to EPA about this matter since  
11      EPA approved the plan to plug and abandon this well. Respondent's plan, provided to  
12      EPA on April 2, 2004, to plug the well, has gone unimplemented.

13  
14      Degree of Culpability

15  
16      Respondent should have been aware of all UIC requirements when it applied for and  
17      received EPA's transfer of ownership of this well from EnCana on or about February 25,  
18      2004.

19  
20      Economic Benefit

21  
22      An economic benefit was experienced by Respondent for its failure to plug and abandon  
23      the Tribal 194-14 well. The delayed cost of compliance is estimated to be \$1,005.00.

24  
25      Ability to Pay

26  
27      EPA did not reduce the proposed penalty due to this factor, but will consider any new  
28      information Respondent may present regarding Respondent's ability to pay the penalty  
29      proposed in this complaint.

30  
31      Other Matters that Justice may Require

32  
33      No adjustments made regarding these factors at this time.

- 34  
35      29.     Respondent's payment of the penalty shall be made by money order or certified check  
36             made payable to "Treasurer, United States of America" and mailed to the following  
37             address:

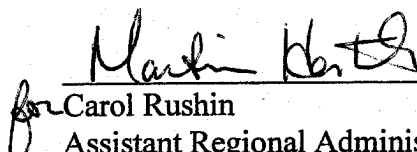
38                     EPA - Region 8  
39                     Regional Hearing Clerk  
40                     P.O. Box 360859  
41                     Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15251.

1 A copy of said check shall be mailed to the following address:

2  
3 Jim Eppers (8ENF-L)  
4 Enforcement Attorney  
5 U.S. EPA - Region 8  
6 999 18th Street, Suite 300  
7 Denver, Colorado 80202-2466.  
8

- 9 30. The provisions of this complaint shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent, its  
10 officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, and successors or assigns.  
11  
12 31. As required by the Act, prior to the assessment of a civil penalty, EPA will provide public  
13 notice of the proposed penalty, and reasonable opportunity for people to comment on the  
14 matter, and present evidence in the event a hearing is held. 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(3)(B).  
15  
16 32. The administrative law judge is not bound by EPA's penalty policy or the penalty  
17 proposed by EPA, and may assess a penalty above the proposed amount, up to either  
18 \$27,500.00 or \$32,500.00, per day for each violation, as authorized in the statute, as  
19 amended.  
20  
21 33. This complaint does not constitute a waiver, suspension, or modification of the  
22 requirements of any applicable provision of the Act or the UIC regulations implementing  
23 the Act, which remain in full force and effect. Issuance of this complaint is not an  
24 election by the EPA to forego any civil or any criminal action otherwise authorized under  
25 the Act.  
26

27  
28 Issued this 13th day of July, 2005.  
29

30  
31   
32 for Carol Rushin  
33 Assistant Regional Administrator  
34 Office of Enforcement, Compliance,  
35 and Environmental Justice  
36 U.S. EPA, Region 8  
37 999 18th Street, Suite 300  
38 Denver, CO 80202-2466

Omimex Resources, Inc.  
Docket No. SDWA-08-2005-0040

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the original and one true copy of this Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing were hand carried to the Regional Hearing Clerk, EPA Region 8, 999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Denver, Colorado, and that a true copy was sent Certified Mail; Return Receipt Requested to:

Clark P. Storms  
Vice-President, Secretary and Registered Agent  
Omimex Resources, Inc.  
5608 Malvey Avenue, Suite 400  
Fort Worth, TX 76107-5163.

Dated: 1/13/05

By: Judith McTernan  
Judith McTernan

# ATTACHMENT A

Operator	EPA ID No.	Type of Violation	Date Violation Began	Date Violation Ended	Violation duration in days	Violation duration in months
Ominex	MT20000-01550	A. Failure to Plug & Abandon or Show Non-endangerment	02/25/2004	09/01/2005	554	18

Note that for this violation, the end date is approximated since this is an on-going violation.

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON  
PROPOSED ORDER AND PENALTY COMPLAINT  
WITH NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING  
AGAINST  
OMIMEX RESOURCES, INC.  
FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH  
UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL REGULATIONS**

**PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

The purpose of this notice is to solicit written comments on an Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (complaint)[Docket No. SDWA-08-2005-0040] that Region 8 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes to issue against Omimex Resources, Inc., whose main address is 5608 Malvey Avenue, Suite 400, Fort Worth, Texas 76107-5163. The complaint alleges violations of the Underground Injection Control (UIC) regulations and proposes remedies and monetary penalties for the alleged violations. The complaint is issued under the UIC provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Act's implementing regulations. These regulations govern the injection of fluids that may endanger an underground source of drinking water (USDW).

The EPA desires to receive written comments from any interested party having knowledge of the alleged violations or who can provide any information useful to ensure that the proposed remedies and penalties are appropriate. EPA will review any comments received on the complaint, and will thereafter determine whether to modify or withdraw the complaint or whether to modify the proposed penalty and/or compliance requirements.

**BACKGROUND**

Part C of the SDWA requires the EPA to regulate underground injection of fluid through wells to assure that USDWs are not endangered. Section 1421 of the SDWA requires EPA to administer UIC programs in States or on Indian Lands that do not have approved State UIC programs. Regulation of the UIC Class II Program has not been delegated to the Blackfeet Tribe; therefore, EPA administers the program in accordance with title 40 of the Code of Federal regulations (40 C.F.R.), Parts 124, 144, 146, 147, and 148.

The Class II injection well which is the subject of this complaint, is owned and/or operated by Omimex Resources, Inc., and is located in the Reagan oil field, Glacier County, Section 15 of Township 37 North, Range 7 West. A Class II injection well, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. 144.6 and 146.5, is a well that injects fluids (a) brought to the surface in connection with natural gas storage operations, or conventional oil or natural gas production, (b) for enhanced

recovery of oil or natural gas, or (c) for the storage of hydrocarbons which are liquid at standard pressure and temperature. The well subject to this complaint is an enhanced oil recovery well, injecting into the Madison Formation for the purpose of enhancing oil production from nearby oil wells completed in the same formation. This well is located within the exterior boundary of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

The complaint alleges that Omimex Resources, Inc. is in violation of UIC regulations and is subject to appropriate penalties for failing to plug and abandon this well after injection activities ceased for more than 2 years. The complaint proposes that EPA assess an administrative civil penalty in the amount forty-one thousand twenty-five dollars (\$41,025.00) and that Omimex Resources, Inc. plug and abandon the well.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Written comments on the complaint are encouraged and will be accepted at the address listed below for a period of thirty (30) days after the publication of this notice. Written comments submitted by the public as well as information submitted by Omimex Resources, Inc. will be available for public review as part of the administrative record, subject to the provisions of law restricting the disclosure of confidential information. Omimex Resources, Inc. may request a hearing. Any person submitting written comments will be notified of and has a right to participate in such a hearing. The complaint and the administrative record are available for review between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the address listed below. It is recommended that those wishing to view the Administrative Record call James H. Eppers, Enforcement Attorney, Legal Enforcement Program, EPA Region 8, at (303) 312-6893 before visiting the EPA Region 8 offices.

Please submit written comments to:

Tina Artemis (8RC)  
Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA, Region 8  
999 18th Street, Suite 500  
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466.

A copy of the complaint will also be available for public review Monday 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at the Browning Public Library, located at 9 Second Avenue NW, Browning, Montana 59417. About a week after EPA sends its complaint to Omimex, the complaint can also be viewed on the following EPA webpage: [www.epa.gov/Region08/compliance/rhc.html](http://www.epa.gov/Region08/compliance/rhc.html).

Any person interested in receiving their own copy of this or any future public notice of a UIC administrative action can call Nathan Wiser in the UIC program, EPA Region 8, at (303) 312-6211.

## **THE DECISION**

EPA will review and consider all public comments received on the complaint and will thereafter determine whether to modify or withdraw the complaint or whether to modify the proposed penalty and/or compliance requirements. If the complaint is revised, copies shall be provided to all parties and to all members of the public who have commented.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Publication

Elisabeth Evans  
Elisabeth Evans, Director  
Technical Enforcement Program  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance, and  
Environmental Justice  
U.S. EPA, Region 8  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Denver, CO 80202-3466

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Friday  
July 23, 1999

**Federal Register**

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**Part V**

**Environmental  
Protection Agency**

---

**40 CFR Part 22**

**Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing  
the Administrative Assessment of Civil  
Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or  
Corrective Action Orders, and the  
Revocation, Termination or Suspension of  
Permits; Final Rule**



1st page only

## U. S. EPA Small Business Resources

If you own a small business, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers a variety of compliance assistance and tools to assist you in complying with federal and state environmental laws. These resources can help you understand your environmental obligations, improve compliance and find cost-effective ways to comply through the use of pollution prevention and other innovative technologies.

### Hotlines, Helplines and Clearinghouses

EPA sponsors approximately 89 free hotlines and clearinghouses that provide convenient assistance regarding environmental requirements.

**The National Environmental Compliance Assistance Clearinghouse** provides quick access to compliance assistance tools, contacts, and planned activities from the U.S. EPA, states, and other compliance assistance providers: <http://www.epa.gov/clearinghouse>

**Pollution Prevention Clearinghouse**  
<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/library/ppicindex.htm>

**EPA's Small Business Ombudsman Hotline** can provide a list of all the hot lines and assist in determining the hotline best meeting your needs:  
(800) 368-5888

**Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act**  
(800) 424-9346

**National Response Center** (to report oil and hazardous substance spills)  
(800) 424-8802

**Toxics Substances and Asbestos Information**  
(202) 554-1404

**Safe Drinking Water**  
(800) 426-4791

**Stratospheric Ozone and Refrigerants Information**  
(800) 296-1996

**Clean Air Technology Center**  
(919) 541-0800

**Wetlands Helpline**  
(800) 832-7828

### EPA Websites

EPA has several Internet sites that provide useful compliance assistance information and materials for small businesses. If you don't have access to the Internet at your business, many public libraries provide access to the Internet at minimal or no cost.

**EPA's Home Page**  
<http://www.epa.gov>

**Small Business Assistance Program**  
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/sbap>

**Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance**  
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance>

**Compliance Assistance Home Page**  
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/assistance>

**Office of Regulatory Enforcement**  
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/civil/index.html>

**Office of Site Remediation Enforcement**  
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/cleanup>

**Innovative Programs for Environmental Performance**  
<http://www.epa.gov/partners>

**Small Business Ombudsman**  
[www.sba.gov/ombudsman](http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman)

